

# Shellfish Department May 2017 Monthly Report

The Shellfish Department is ramping up its efforts in preparation for the 2017 growing season. The cultch barge has been serviced and water tested and appears ready for service. Our supply of cultch is slowly improving, although Intershell Corp was not taking phone calls last week. Both the Shellfish Department and our trucking contractor will continue attempting to call our cultch supplier. A very positive development in our cultching program is the Wellfleet DPW's willingness to maintain some flexibility in the trucking schedule. This flexibility will allow us to avoid high winds which will allow us to optimize our supply of clutch. The mapping and marking of the Chipman's Cove remote set (Chinese hats) will be completed this week. The Shellfish Department has also attended the state DMF vibrio control meetings and is prepared for the Vibrio Season which begins 5/21/17. A sizable population of oysters on the West side (Great Island) of the harbor will make the 2017 a challenge. The difficulty is that the west side is only accessible by boat and the WSD boat is high and dry approximately 2hrs on either side of low tide making it necessary to leave the dock as early as 3 am. Daily patrols have been effective and we continue to see excellent compliance with size and daily limits. We continue to work with the state on water testing for Red tide and setting up monitoring systems within the harbor. We are back to having two trucks after almost a month with only one.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mankevetch  
Acting Shellfish Constable